

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SUBJECT: **PARAMEDIC INTERN CLINICAL EXPERIENCE
AND FIELD INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

REFERENCE NO. 903

PURPOSE: To outline the requirements for a paramedic intern to obtain a clinical experience and/or a field internship in Los Angeles County.

AUTHORITY: California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797-1799
California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapter 4.

DEFINITIONS:

Accreditation: Authorization by the EMS Agency Medical Director to practice as a paramedic within Los Angeles County.

Accreditation Orientation Program: Mandatory program to prepare a paramedic student to take the accreditation examination and intern in Los Angeles County.

ALS Internship Provider Agency: 9-1-1 provider agency with a minimum of 1200 EMS responses in the previous calendar year, approved by the EMS Agency to intern paramedic students.

Approved Paramedic Training Programs: A California paramedic training program, approved by a local EMS agency, which meets the requirements and approved for clinical experience and/or field internship in Los Angeles County.

Clinical Experience: Consists of a minimum of 160 hours during which the paramedic intern is under the direct supervision of a qualified preceptor. Hospital must hold a basic or comprehensive permit to provide emergency services or an alternative clinical site approved by the paramedic training program.

Field Internship: Consists of a minimum of 480 hours during which the paramedic intern is under the direct supervision of a qualified preceptor that is approved by the paramedic training program.

Qualified Clinical Preceptor: A physician, registered nurse, or physician assistant with current licensure in California and a minimum of two (2) years emergency medicine experience, who has received instruction in evaluating paramedic interns in the clinical setting.

Qualified Field Preceptor: A paramedic with current licensure in California, Los Angeles County accreditation and a minimum of two (2) years field experience with a 9-1-1 ALS provider, who has completed field preceptor training approved by the EMS Agency.

PRINCIPLES:

1. Paramedic interns shall be supervised by a qualified preceptor throughout all aspects of the clinical experience and field internship.

EFFECTIVE: 10-1-10


PAGE 1 OF 5

REVISED:

SUPERSEDES:

APPROVED:


Director, EMS Agency


Medical Director, EMS Agency

2. Paramedic interns shall adhere to the current EMS Agency prehospital care policies, procedures, and medical guidelines.
3. Paramedic interns shall meet all eligibility, training, and testing requirements of the EMS Agency prior to the start of the clinical or field internship.
4. Only EMS Agency approved paramedic training programs are authorized to arrange and provide the clinical experience and/or field internship for paramedic training in Los Angeles County.
5. Paramedic training programs shall have signed agreements with the clinical facility and field internship provider.
6. Paramedic training programs shall perform a minimum of one (1) documented on-site observation for clinical experience and field internship for each intern.

POLICY:

I. Paramedic Intern Eligibility Minimum Requirements

To be eligible for clinical experience and/or field internship, a paramedic intern shall:

- A. Be enrolled in and have successfully completed the appropriate portions of an approved paramedic training program in California.
- B. Possess a current basic life support card for Healthcare Provider or Professional Rescuer which meets the current American Heart Association Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care.
- C. Be California certified as one of the following:
 - A. EMT
 - B. AEMT/EMT-II

Note: CPR and EMT certification must be maintained throughout all phases of training.

- D. Complete all mandatory EMS Agency programs prior to accreditation class, to include but not limited to:
 - A. Current EMS Update training through an approved paramedic training program, the EMS Agency accreditation course, or Los Angeles County ALS education program.
 - B. Nuclear, Biological, Chemical/Weapons of Mass Destruction (NBC/WMD) training that meets the objectives as outlined in the Los Angeles County EMS Agency NBC/WMD training course.
- E. Complete the EMS Agency Accreditation program prior to Field Internship to include written and skills examination by one of the following:

1. Attend a Los Angeles County approved paramedic training program and pass the EMS Agency Accreditation examination.
or
2. Attend the EMS Agency Accreditation Program and pass the written examination and demonstrate skills proficiency.

II. Hospital Clinical Experience

The paramedic training program shall contact the EMS Agency and submit the required documentation to ensure:

- A. The clinical experience consists of no less than 160 hours.
- B. The paramedic intern meets the requirements outlined in this policy.
- C. The training program shall conduct and document a minimum of one (1) observation of the paramedic intern during the clinical experience.
- D. A copy of the signed agreement between the training program and the facility providing the clinical experience.
- E. The names of the qualified preceptors assigned to the paramedic intern.

III. Field Internship

- A. The paramedic training program shall contact the EMS Agency and submit all required documentation to ensure:
 1. Field internship consists of no less than 480 hours with a maximum of 720 hours unless approved by EMS Agency Medical Director.
 2. A copy of the signed agreement between the training program and the approved ALS provider agency providing the field internship.
 3. The student shall have successfully completed didactic, skills, and the clinical experience.
 4. The student shall meet the EMS Agency requirements to intern in Los Angeles County including successful completion of the Paramedic Accreditation Program.
 5. Field preceptor assignments shall be coordinated with the training program and the provider agency to ensure the preceptor has the required experience and training.
 6. The names of the qualified preceptors assigned to the paramedic intern.
 7. No more than one (1) paramedic intern shall be assigned to a response vehicle at any time.

8. The student shall perform a minimum of forty (40) documented ALS patient contacts. At least 50% of contacts shall provide the full continuum of care of the patient, beginning with the initial contact through release of the patient to a receiving hospital or medical care facility.
9. Internship must be completed within 6 months from the end of the clinical experience.
10. The training program shall conduct and document a minimum of one (1) on-site observation of the paramedic intern during the field internship.
11. Proof of completion of all mandatory EMS Agency programs to include but not limited to:
 - a. Current EMS Update training
 - b. NBC/WMD training

B. Application Process

Note: All communication related to requirements, application, scheduling, and results will be coordinated through the program director of the paramedic training program. All requirements shall be met prior to being enrolled into the Accreditation Program.

1. Interns attending a Los Angeles County approved Paramedic Training Program shall submit a completed Los Angeles County EMS Agency Paramedic Accreditation Application (Ref. No. 1006.1).
2. Interns attending a paramedic training program approved by another local EMS agency in California shall submit:
 - a. A completed Los Angeles County EMS Agency Paramedic Accreditation Application (Ref. No. 1006.1).
 - b. Payment of the established accreditation fee.
 - c. A letter, on official letterhead, signed by the Paramedic Coordinator or Chief of the interning agency stating they have agreed to provide a field internship and provide the names of the qualified preceptors.
 - d. A letter, on official letterhead, signed by the Program Director of the paramedic training program documenting the intern's successful completion of the didactic, skills, and clinical phases of training.
 - e. A copy of the current California EMT/AEMT/EMT-II certification.
 - f. A copy of the current basic life support card.

- g. Documentation verifying completion of the current EMS Update training if during the EMS Agency training period.
- h. Documentation verifying completion of NBC/WMD training.

C. Accreditation Program and Examination

Complete the application process a minimum of two weeks prior to the applicant's scheduled accreditation course date.

1. Failure to appear for the scheduled accreditation course or the retake examination will result in the applicant having to reapply as a course retake applicant and pay the established fee.
2. The applicant must pass the written examination and demonstrate skills proficiency.
 - a. Achieve a passing score on the written examination.
 - b. Demonstrate skills proficiency for Los Angeles County scope of practice within three (3) attempts.
3. An applicant who fails the written examination may retake the examination one time. Retake exams may be taken after seven (7) days but within thirty (30) days of the initial exam.
4. An applicant who fails the retake examination may reapply as a course retake applicant, pay the established fee and repeat the accreditation course one time and must pass the examination within two attempts.
5. Examination result notification shall be provided to the Program Director of the Paramedic Training Program.

IV. Issuance of Accreditation

Within one year of passing the accreditation examination, completion of mandatory EMS Agency training programs, proof of California paramedic licensure, and payment of the established fee, a paramedic shall receive accreditation in accordance with Ref. 1006, Paramedic Accreditation.

CROSS REFERENCES:

Prehospital Care Policy Manual:

Ref. No. 802,	Emergency Medical Technician Scope of Practice
Ref. No. 803,	Paramedic Scope of Practice
Ref. No. 901,	Paramedic Training Program Approval Requirements
Ref. No. 1006,	Paramedic Accreditation